



CENTRE FOR LEGAL  
RESOURCES



# Annual Report

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# About Us

The Centre for Legal Resources (CLR) is a non-governmental, non-profit organization, established in 1998 by the Open Society Foundation, which actively advocates for the establishment and operation of a legal and institutional framework that safeguards the observance of human rights and equal opportunities, free access to fair justice and which contributes to the capitalization of its legal expertise for the general public interest.



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# Directions of ACTION

- We conduct our own investigations, take over cases of abuses against the rights of institutionalized people with mental disabilities and go through all the necessary trial steps for securing these rights;
- We make proposals of improving the human rights legal framework, or for creating a norm where there is none;
- We track the way that public policies in the fields of human rights and integrity are being implemented and we identify the vulnerabilities within the system.

## Our Mission

1

Improvement (simplification, clarification, completion) of the legal framework able to respect and apply the national and international standards regarding human rights and liberties;

2

Development of a system of competent and transparent public institutions, which safeguard the implementation of the law;

3

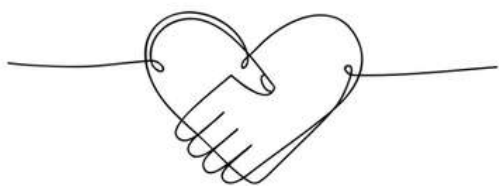
Raise the public awareness in regard to human rights guaranteed by law.



# Our Programmes

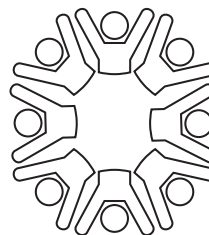
## Advocate for Dignity

The programme was launched in 2003 as a pioneering approach in defending the rights of institutionalized people with mental disabilities, through a system of unannounced, regular monitoring visits aimed at identifying and bringing to the public authorities' attention the way in which the law regarding the protection of the rights of institutionalized people with mental disabilities is being enforced.



## Anti-Discrimination

The anti-discrimination programme has been an active program of the Centre for Legal Resources (CLR) since 2003. In order to contribute to a Romanian society where equality becomes the norm rather than the exception



## Justice and Rule of Law

The programme aims to improve citizens' access to justice, to contribute to the strengthening of institutions that ensure the protection of human rights and the rule of law.

“You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And you have to do it all the time.”

— *Angela Davis*

# Our Team

## Strategic Board

Radu Moțoc – President  
Ivan Fišer

Eugenia Crângariu  
Antonie Popescu

## CLR Team

Georgiana Iorgulescu – Executive Director

Valentina Nicolae – Executive Assistant

Georgiana Pascu – “Advocate for Dignity” Programme Manager

Cezara David – “Anti-discrimination” Programme Manager

Cezara Băceanu – Legal advisor

Elena Perry – Communication expert

Georgiana Dărăștean – Courses coordinator

Ruxandra Roșu – Legal advisor

Georgiana Bădescu – Communication and campaigns coordinator

Niculina Popescu – Economic Manager

Andreea Stan – Economist

Liliana Florea – Secretary

Florin Călugaru – Administrator



George Ionesi – Communication Assistant

Ruxandra Mateescu – Communication expert

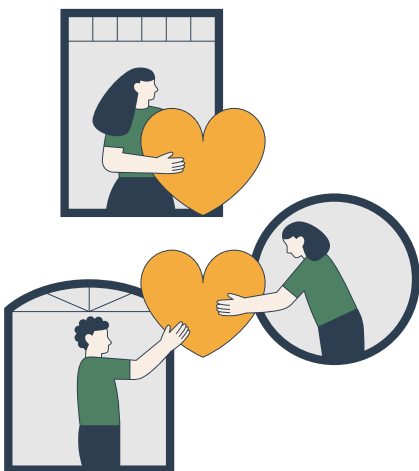
Oana Dodu – Legal Expert

Claudia Apostol - Communication expert

Andreea Badea – Courses coordinator



## 17 volunteers



*"It was my first time volunteering somewhere and it was great! I learned a lot about discrimination and especially about many situations and legal provisions about people with disabilities. I appreciated that I we spoke openly and got feedback on everything which helped me understand and work better.*

***I'm glad I chose to volunteer here for the first time as it opened my appetite to get more involved as it was a great experience."***

Miruna Barbuș, Octavian Bădiță, Izabela Bontaș, Lucy Burgess, Lavinia Cosma, Corina-Andreea Diaconică, Ana Drulă, Maria Simona Gogea, Mar Hatmanu, Raisa-Milena Manolescu, Antonia Miculeac, Daniel Neagu, David Posa, Nicoleta Profir, Ioana-Alexandra Răducanu, Mălina Turtureanu, Alexandra Viloaică

# Advocate for Dignity



Illustration by Dadu Shin

# WHAT

programme launched in 2003 as a pioneering approach in defending the rights of institutionalized people with mental disabilities

unannounced visits in social care homes or hospitals financed with public funds in which there are children, youth and adults with mental disabilities;

interviews with both beneficiaries and employees belonging to these institutions;

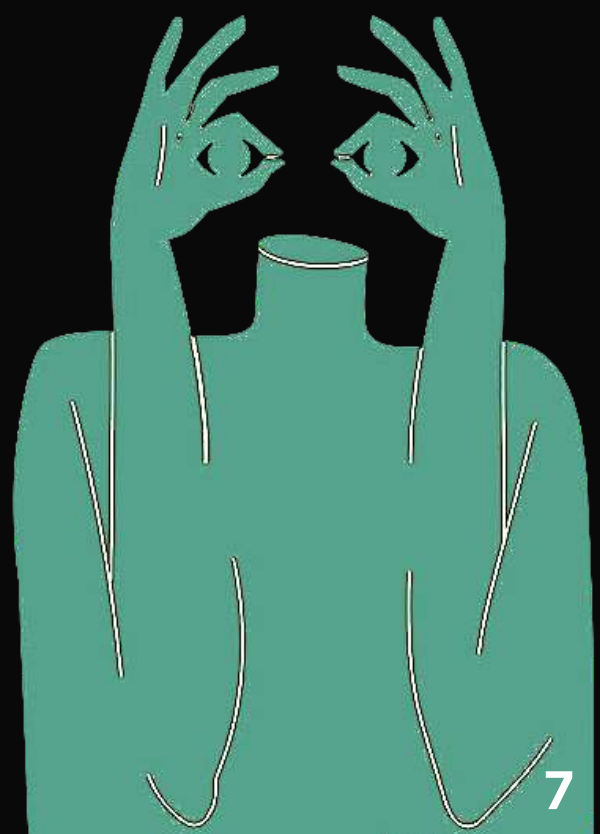
elaboration and remission of an observation report to the authorities on the way in which the law is enforced; solicitation of a response on their behalf.

notification of those responsible every time we identify an abuse against the rights of institutionalized persons with mental disabilities;

media advocacy for promoting the rights of persons with mental disabilities;

initiation of law proposals.

# HOW





# PROJECTS

## ADAPTJUST

Accessible Justice  
for people with disabilities

## FREE TO DECIDE

Transition from guardianship  
to Supported Decision Making  
for persons with disabilities

## ENABLE

Enabling inclusion and access to justice  
for defendants with intellectual and  
psychosocial disabilities

## CHILD FRIENDLY JUSTICE

Improving individual assessments of  
children in vulnerable situations in  
Romania, Italy and Bulgaria - improving the  
situation for children with disabilities,  
children deprived of parental care and  
unaccompanied minors.

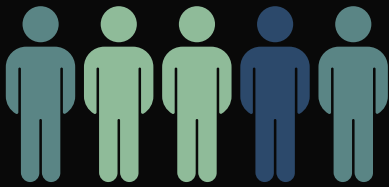
## VOICES FOR JUSTICE

Creating practical tools for people with  
disabilities who are victims of crime, to  
help ensure that they can participate  
actively in criminal justice processes.



**BUDGET:** 466,902.00 Euro

# RESULTS



TRAINED

**1000** professionals  
from all over the country

## #AccesToJustice

judges | prosecutors | lawyers  
psychologists | psychiatrist  
social assistants | NGOs  
self-representatives



courses x workshops

## TOPICS



legal procedures, ECHR judgments  
community psychiatry  
procedural accommodations  
supported decision making  
communication with persons  
with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities

## 2 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

How do we communicate with people with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities in criminal justice?

- Carla Ferreira CARE, Portugal
- Rados Keravica ENIL, Brussels
- Miren Špek VWSS, Croatia
- Charlotte Orrell Registered Intermediaries, UK
- Maria Krasteva Chance and Support, Bulgaria
- Anthinea Interbartolo PRISM, Italia
- Zahari Iankov BCNL, Bulgaria
- Bruno Monteiro Validity, Hungary

### ONU, USA

together with CevaDeSpus co-president Elisabeta Moldovan - at the Conference of States on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).



### HUMANISING JUSTICE - CONFERENCE AND WEBINAR SERIES IN BRUSSELS

JUNE 20 Deinstitutionalisation and Justice seminar

JUNE 21 Child-Friendly Justice project final conference

JUNE 22 Voices for Justice project international conference

organised by

VALIDITY &



### BRUSSELS

„Humanising Justice“, conference and webinar organised by Validity Foundation and European Network on Independent Living

- ENIL in Brussels.



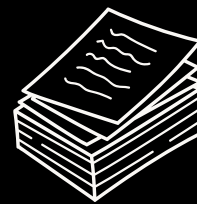
## 1 NATIONAL DEBATE



on the Government's obligation to implement ECHR judgments on the rights of persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities by drawing up the National Action Plan for the prevention of ill-treatment in psychiatric hospitals and residential centres.



## MONITORING 6 ad-hoc visits



**60** referrals  
**2** criminal complaints  
**3** written reports





3 exhibitions  
1 movie night

ART

4 interventions



EASY-TO-READ  
2 brochures



PODCASTS

6



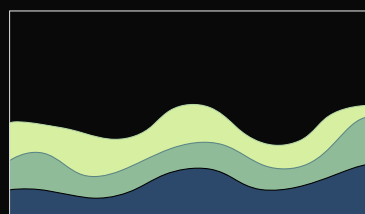
self-representatives and  
experts discussed about  
Supported Decision Making



NEWSLETTER

140 recipients

SOCIAL MEDIA  
reached **170.769**





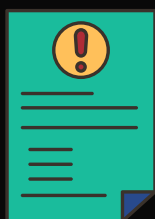
# RESOURCES



How accessible is justice in Romania?

Effective involvement of people with disabilities in the legislative process - why is it essential?

Supported Decision Making: Models from other countries



Monitoring reports / Authorities answers



How to terminate legal guardianship?

What is assistance in concluding legal acts?



Podcast series playlist



Procedural accommodations

In court: communication with persons with disabilities



Media Investigations

# Anti-Discrimination



Illustration by Pietro Soldi

# WHAT

programme active since 2003, for a Romanian society where equality becomes the norm rather than the exception

# OBJECTIVES

- an increased efficacy of the Romanian the equality body (National Council for Combating Discrimination-NCCD) in what concerns its role of preventing and combating discrimination in the Romanian society;
- equality mainstreaming in Romanian laws and policies, especially those with a direct impact on vulnerable groups ;
- an increased capacity of civil society organizations and the members of vulnerable groups to combat discrimination, and a Romanian public which is more aware of discrimination and its effects.



# PROJECTS

## NON-DISCRIMINATION, Beyond words

## INTEGRIS: Integrated Support for Human Rights

## CHAT FOR VICTIMS



**BUDGET:** 116,371.00 Euro

# RESULTS



**20** national MEETINGS  
**278** participants 🖱️

**#combating  
hatespeech**



**10 MEETINGS**

with members  
of vulnerable  
communities

**10 MEETINGS**

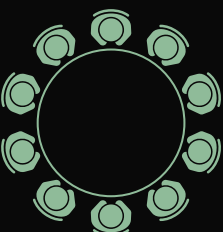
with young  
people

The authors of the anti-hate speech booklets, human rights experts, met with young people to debunk and break down myths, prejudices and stereotypes about several marginalised communities.



**3** HUMAN RIGHTS TRAININGS

sessions for specialists

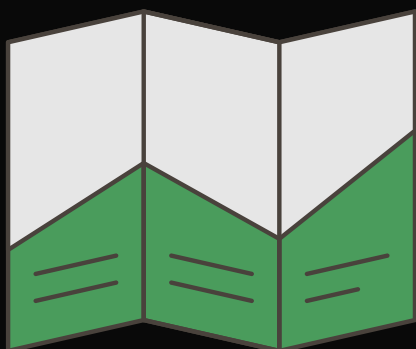


**2** ROUND TABLES

Access to justice for vulnerable groups



## 10 BOOKLETS



instruments to deconstruct prejudices towards certain minorities and groups vulnerable to discrimination



## TOPICS

Asylum Seekers and Refugees

People who experience homelessness

Hungarian Minority

People who live in poverty

Jewish Minority

People who live with HIV/AIDS

LGBTQ+ Community

People with neuro-cognitive disabilities

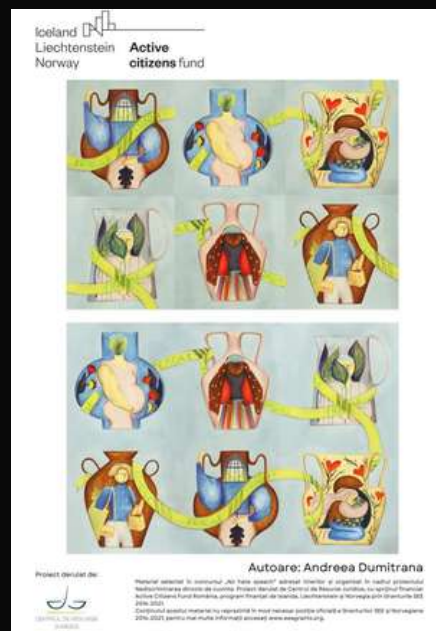
Mothers

Roma Minority



# 1 CONTEST 🖱️

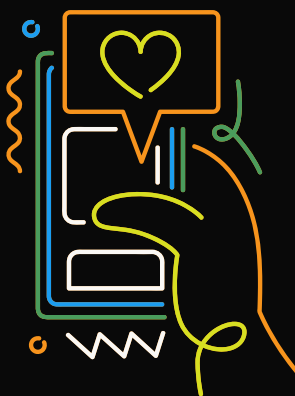
10 materials designed to convey an anti-discrimination or anti-hate speech message



# 5 MEDIA 🖱️

## CONTRIBUTORS

produced and promoted materials that combat and inform on hate speech and human rights in general



TOPICS



- illustrations on LGBTQAI+ rights
- humorous drawings on human rights
- book recommendations: poverty and disability
- against bullying: presentation, stats, strategy
- media article: women's rights/domestic violence

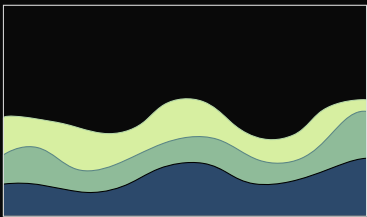


9 PETITIONS

National Council  
for Combating  
Discrimination

5	petitions against administrative territorial units whose local council decisions contain discriminatory criteria in allocating social housing;
2	petitions on cases of online hate speech;
1	petition concerning the local public transport service (discrimination found by NCCD Decision No 541 of 7 September 2022);
1	petition concerning 13 items of clothing marketed online with sexist, patriarchal and degrading messages and/or illustrations against women.

SOCIAL MEDIA  
reached **184.219**



# RESOURCES

## OPINIONS



Four petitions drafted and submitted to the NCCD on discriminatory criteria in the allocation of social housing



IDAHOBIT 2022: Another attack on fundamental rights



Petition for an online environment free of hate speech



The right to benefit, freely and without discrimination, from the public transport service



Everyday sexism: do we see it or not?



Hate speech advocacy is inadmissible



Municipality of Cluj-Napoca, sanctioned by the NCCD



Access to justice for vulnerable groups in a democratic judicial system

→ **STUDY**  
→ **RECOMMENDATIONS**



# Justice and Rule of Law

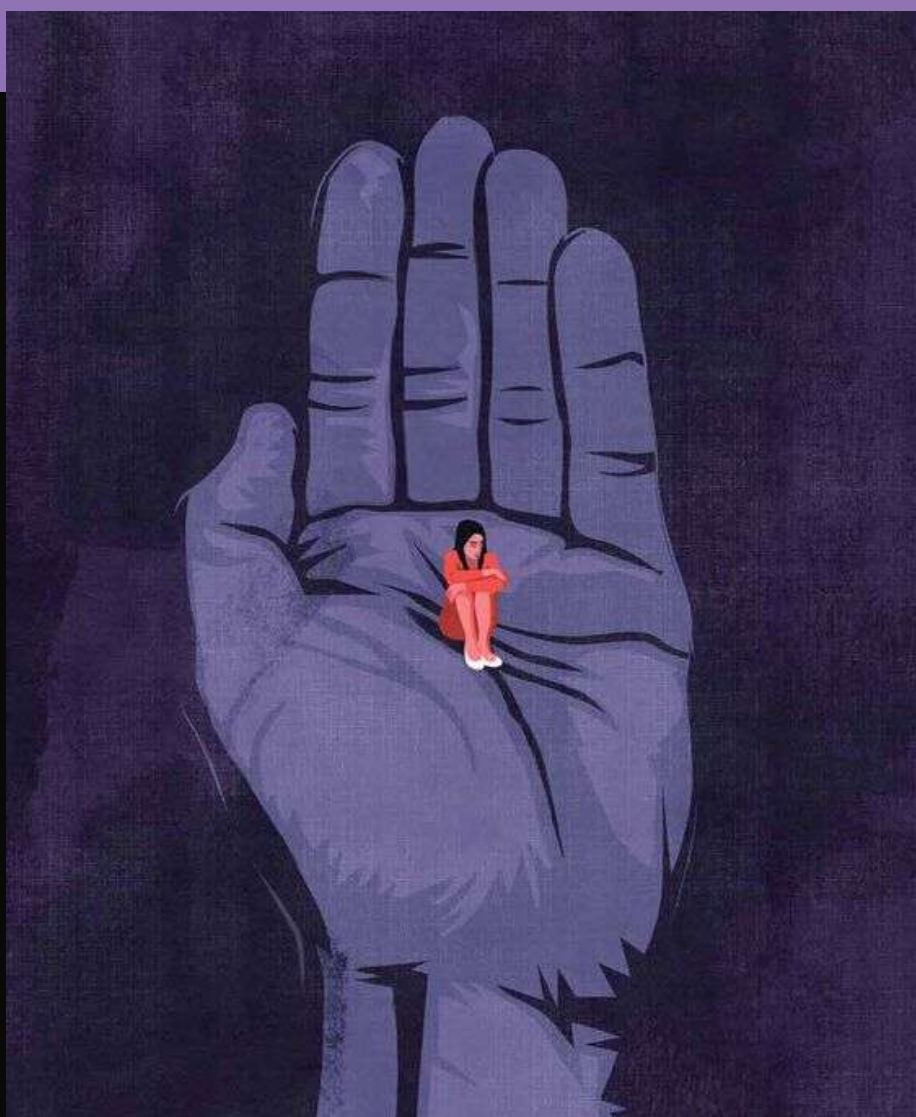


Illustration by [Benedetto Cristofani](#)



# PROJECTS

## Human Rights Situation, Up to Date



**BUGDET:** 30,925.00 Euro

# WHAT

project that aims to increase citizens' awareness of human rights, equal treatment and the rule of law in Romania and to strengthen the capacity of civil society and opinion makers/professionals, by creating the necessary tools and access to expertise, to identify, report and challenge human rights violations, institutional practices that are detrimental to human rights, and gaps in legislation and law enforcement.

# OBJECTIVES



- Monitoring of legislative initiatives
- Training sessions on the protection of vulnerable groups and the rule of law
- Organisation of debates on human rights issues;
- Elaboration of 6 proposals on the improvement of legislation, law enforcement and implementation framework from a human rights perspective;
- Strategic human rights litigation/equal treatment.

# RESULTS

## 2 TRAININGS

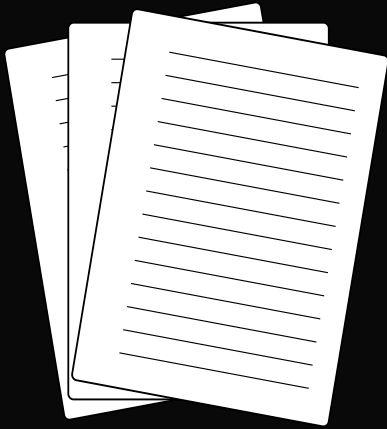
Child victim protection  
Justice laws



## 2 DEBATES

- Vulnerable groups: discrimination and hate crime
- The role of intelligence services in Romania



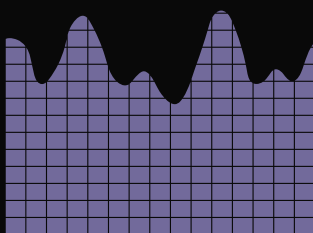


## 9 OP-EDS

personal comments

legislative initiatives  
state of human rights  
comments on new legal provisions

**3 COURT ACTIONS**  
initiated and documented,  
part of our team's  
strategic litigation activity



SOCIAL MEDIA  
reached **37.000**

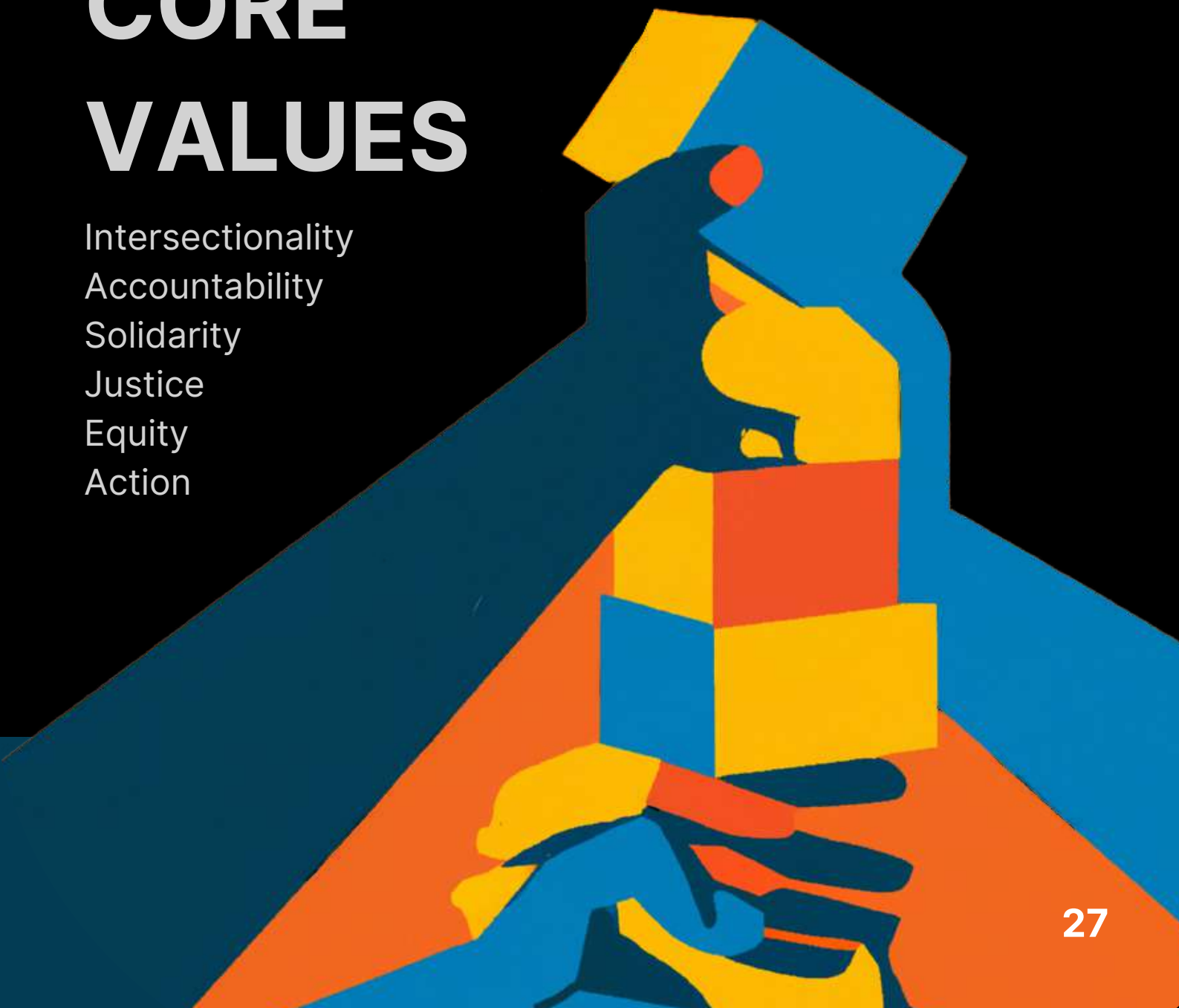
CLR uses legal actions and lawsuits as  
a deliberate strategy to achieve  
broader social or policy goals

addressing systemic issues,  
challenging unjust laws or policies,  
protecting fundamental rights, and  
advancing social justice causes.

# STRATEGIC LITIGATION

## CORE VALUES

Intersectionality  
Accountability  
Solidarity  
Justice  
Equity  
Action





# FUNDERS

## ADAPT JUST

Accessible Justice  
for people with disabilities



Financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein  
and Norway through the EEA Grants.

## FREE TO DECIDE

Transition from guardianship  
to Supported Decision Making  
for persons with disabilities



Grant from Active Citizens Fund  
Romania, programme funded by Iceland,  
Liechtenstein and Norway through the  
EEA Grants 2014 -2021

## ENABLE

Enabling inclusion and access  
to justice for defendants with  
intellectual and psychosocial  
disabilities



Project co-funded by the  
European Union

## CHILD FRIENDLY JUSTICE

Developing the concept of  
social court practices



Project co-funded by the European  
Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship  
Programme (2014-2020)

## VOICES FOR JUSTICE

Communicating with Victims  
of Crime with Disability



Project co-funded by the European  
Union's Justice Programme (2014-2020).

## NON-DISCRIMINATION, Beyond words



Grant from Active Citizens Fund Romania,  
programme funded by Iceland,  
Liechtenstein and Norway through the  
EEA Grants 2014 -2021

## INTEGRIS Project: Integrated Support for Human Rights



Grant from Active Citizens Fund Romania,  
programme funded by Iceland,  
Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA  
Grants 2014-2021.

## CHAT FOR VICTIMS



Project co-funded by the European Union

## Human Rights Situation, Up to Date



Grant from Active Citizens Fund Romania,  
programme funded by Iceland,  
Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA  
Grants 2014 -2021

**justice,  
dignity,  
equality.**



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RESOURCES